

# Gender of Nouns: Part II

Masculine nouns that end in a consonant often have a corresponding feminine form that ends in -a.

el profesor ..... la profesora  
el doctor ..... la doctora  
el señor ..... la señora

Some nouns that refer to people use the same form for both masculine and feminine. These nouns indicate gender by the article (el or la).

el estudiante ..... la estudiante  
el pianista ..... la pianista  
el artista ..... la artista

Nouns that end in -sión, -ción, -dad, -tad, -tud, -umbre are feminine.

la televisión            la decisión  
la conversación        la habitación  
la ciudad                la universidad  
la dificultad            la libertad  
la actitud                la gratitud  
la certidumbre         la muchedumbre

Some nouns that end in -a are masculine.

el problema            el telegrama  
el programa            el mapa  
el sistema              el poema  
el día                    el tema  
el clima                 el idioma  
el sofá                  el planeta

Many nouns that end in -ma are masculine. Notice that eight of the twelve nouns listed above end in -ma.

el telegrama            el programa  
el problema            el sistema  
el poema                el idioma  
el clima                 el tema

NOTE: A few nouns that end in -ma are feminine, such as *la cama* and *la pluma*.

Four of the nouns that end in -a are simply exceptions and must be memorized.

el día                    el mapa  
el planeta              el sofá

A few nouns that end in -o are feminine.

la mano                la radio

## Review of the rules learned in lesson 1 and lesson 2.

- Many nouns that denote living things have both a masculine and a feminine form.
- Most nouns that end in -o are masculine.
- Most nouns that end in -a are feminine.
- Masculine nouns that end in a consonant often have a corresponding feminine form that ends in -a.
- Some nouns that refer to people use the same form for both masculine and feminine. These nouns indicate gender by the article (el or la).
- Nouns that end in -sión, -ción, -dad, -tad, -tud, -umbre are feminine.
- Many nouns that end in -ma are masculine.
- A few nouns that end in -o are feminine

You now know most of the rules for determining the gender of a noun. There are just a few more things to know, but they won't be covered until later. Remember, whenever you learn a new noun, learn it complete with its definite article (el, la). Definite articles are the subject of an upcoming lesson.